

manœuvring either to avoid a settlement or to make one behind the backs of the electorates.

Hitherto the people of the Dominions have left the conduct of their foreign affairs to a government responsible only to the electorate of the British Isles. To assume that responsibility on their own shoulders involves a change of the most positive kind in their mutual relations. They may choose to assume a separate responsibility, or they may choose to share the responsibility which at present rests on the British electorate. But a free choice on the part of the individual, be he member of parliament or voter, is impossible until both alternatives are before him. The real danger is that, if the question be not faced in time, the choice may be forced upon him by events, and he may decide without realizing the gravity of the issues involved. It is open at any moment for Dominion electors through their representatives to instruct their own governments to assume responsibility for the issues of peace and war, because the thing can be done by a stroke of the pen—by a simple notification to all foreign capitals as well as to London. But it is not possible for them to instruct their governments to adopt the only other alternative—to give them their due share of control over the existing Imperial Government in matters of peace and war. The thing cannot be done by a stroke of the pen. It involves a legislative Act which must be authorized by the British as well as by the Dominion electorate. The Dominion electorate must know what it is doing, and so also the British electorate must know what it is asked to do. Neither can have that knowledge until the proposal